

Urbanization Process in Iranian Cities

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ABSTRACT: The urbanization trends in Iran during last decades had been accelerated by high rate of rural-urban migration along with rapid socio-economic and political changes that formed unbalanced urban growth in Iran. Tehran, the capital of the Iran has attracted most of the population in the urban system but in recent decades population increased slower than the other major cities. The paper investigates the impact of growth of population and distribution of urban population in Iran from 1956 first census of Iran to 2006 and discuss about the major cities like Isfahan, Shiraz, Tehran, Mashhad, and Tabriz to observe the unbalance population. In 1996, the population size was 19 million that 6 million (31 per cent) distributed in 199 urban settlements. Since 1956, the proportion of urban population increased gradually. The proportion of urban population increased to 68.5 per cent in 2006 living in 1012 urban settlement. Population has increased rapidly and also there was an increase in the number of cities, but the main part of the population is concentrated in few largest cities.

Key words: Population growth; urbanization; Iranian cities; urban population